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041346Z Sep 03

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 002227

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EU](#) [NL](#) [UNHRC](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH THOUGHTS ON EU GYMNICH MEETING

REF: A. SECSTATE 250490

[B](#). THE HAGUE 2210

[C](#). THE HAGUE 2173

[D](#). THE HAGUE 2171

[E](#). THE HAGUE 2114

Classified By: PolCouns Mary E. Daly Reasons 1.5 (b)

[1](#). (C) We spoke with working-level contacts about Gymnich while the FM was in Washington. According to contacts, the Dutch will push EU counterparts at Gymnich for an EU designation of HAMAS (ref B) and greater international support for the transition phase in Iraq. The Dutch will also query EU partners for ideas on how to improve the impact of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

[2](#). (C) On the European Security Strategy, Senior Dutch officials say they will encourage EU partners to make the ESS as compatible with the US National Security Strategy as possible. However, in general the Dutch are pleased with the ESS draft, and do not want to waste time in the next few months "discussing it over and over again just because we have the time." There is concern by the Dutch that other countries will attempt to make the document too specific. The GoNL prefers to leave it vague, with the plan to add annexes in the future as needed. MFA contacts also noted that the EU plans to initiate a number of public seminars on ESS in the coming months.

[3](#). (U) Following are excerpts (informal translation) of the Foreign Minister's September 1 letter to Parliament in advance of the Gymnich meeting:

EU Security Strategy (ESS)

The Netherlands welcomes the analysis in the draft of the main threats and the strategic goals in the ESS, as well as the importance it attaches to the transatlantic relationship.

In order to be able to protect itself adequately against threats, the EU should focus in the first place on the security situation in, and relations with, neighboring countries. In this context, one should think in particular of a strengthened dialogue and cooperation with the Arab world and better use of existing EU mechanisms instruments, for instance through intensification of the Barcelona process. In addition, the EU should actively strive for a more effective multilateral system "with teeth" for the purpose of advancing global peace and security.

The Netherlands attaches great value to the chosen broad, integrated approach on the security "Concept" in the document, in which, besides military aspects, development cooperation, trade, the environment and promotion of good governance, the rule of law and democracy are considered in their mutual context. September 11 demonstrated unmistakably that internal and external security cannot be viewed separately. This also means that the combat against internal and external threats are one and the same, which should be waged by making and optimal and coherent use of the instruments that the Union has at its disposal.

The proposed ESS could be made operational in annexes that discuss in detail regional (the union's periphery) and thematic priorities (international order, non-proliferation, combat against terrorism, etc.). The development of the security strategy should be discussed in conjunction with the development of ESDP. The latter primarily concerns proposals to improve European military capabilities.

MEPP

The Netherlands sees no other option but to adhere to the political process laid down in the Roadmap. The Netherlands will plead to add the political branch of HAMAS to the EU list of terrorist organizations, whose assets should be frozen. (Note: see Ref B for complete report. End note.).

Iraq

The Dutch believe there is growing awareness that the CPA has thus far not been able to bring about improved living conditions and to win the Iraqi people's confidence ("win the peace"). The GoNL believes this trend should be reversed by parallel progress on three tracks, namely "security" (including reinforced contribution of the international community to the stabilization force), "winning the people's hearts and minds" (through better facilities, particularly water and fuel), and "political reconstruction" (visible increased transfer of power to the Iraqis through the Governing Council and restoration of sovereignty in the second half of 2004 via "constitution-election-representative government"). The Dutch feel the UN has an important role to play in promoting greater involvement of the international community. The GoNL believes that a new UNSC resolution could advance this and give a boost to the political process that has been initiated in Iraq.

Relations with Mediterranean countries -----

With the Union's imminent enlargement, the GoNL acknowledges the Mediterranean region will become increasingly important. The Dutch see possibilities to improve the multifaceted relations with this region in different areas. First, the Netherlands supports the planned foundation of a Euro-Mediterranean foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures. The Netherlands attaches significant importance to promotion of dialogue among various cultures in this region. It advocates a simple structure and financing on a voluntary basis. It therefore places emphasis on concrete activities and cooperation, and not on burdening EU institutions. Secondly, the Netherlands is strongly in favor of giving more attention to human rights and democratization in relations with the Mediterranean partners. It supports the idea of letting financial assistance depend on progress in these areas. The Netherlands also advocates close regional and bilateral cooperation with these countries in the area of asylum and migration. It seeks to conclude detailed re-admission agreements, as agreed in the association accord with most of these partner countries. Finally, the Netherlands believes that instability and extremism in the region cannot be seen separately from economic circumstances. In the economic area the Netherlands advocates more generous access to each other's markets, economic reform and regional economic integration rather than making available more sources of financing. Wijnands comments that these ideas essentially boil down to the GoNL desire for the EU to increase its relationship with Mediterranean countries by fully implementing the numerous agreements already in place, rather than creating new agreements.

SOBEL